

LOUIS TRACY

Author of the "Pillar of Light," "The Wings of the Morning" and "The Captain of the Kansas."

Copyright 1909 by Edward J Clode CHAPTER III.

WHEREIN THE ANDROMEDA NEARS THE END OF HER VOYAGE,

NIVE bells, miss! It'll soon be daylight. If you wants to see the cross, now's your time!" iris had been ealled from dreamess sleep by a thundering rattat on her cabin door. In reply to her half awaked cry of "All right!" the hoarse voice of a saflor told her that the Southern Cross had just rised above the horizon. She resolutely screwed her knuckles into her eyes and began to dress. In a few minutes she was on deck. A long coat, a tamo'-shanter and a pair of list slippers will go far in the way of costume at night in the tropics, and the Androineda's seventeenth day at sea had brought the equator very near. At dinner on the previous evening-in honor of the owner's niece fashionable nours were observed for meats-Mr. Watts mentioned by chance that the cross had been very distinct during the middle watch, or, in other words, between midnight and 4 a. m. Iris at once expressed a wish to see it, and Captam Coke offered a suggestion.

"Mr Hower takes the middle watch tening and he "We can ax 'im to to pound on your door as Then you must run e'll tell you all

escions of a slight feel--ne did not show in. nris supper of the An-I so clearly underso Coke's comprisency unexpectedly, but iris was leading to school her tongue.

"Thank you very much," she said "When simil I see him?"

"Oh you needn't bother. I'll tell 'im meself'

She was somewhat disappointed at this. Homer would be free for an hour before he turned in, and they might have enjoyed a nice chat while he smoked on the poop. In her heart of hearts she was beginning to acknowledge that a voyage through summer seas on a cargo vessel, with no other society than that of unimaginative sallormen, severed of tedium, indeed almost of deadly monotony. Her rare meetings with Hozier marked bright spots in a dull wound of hours. During their small intercourse she had discovered that he was well informed. They had bit upon a few kindred tastes in books and music. They even differed sharply in their appreciation of favorite authors. And what could be more conducive to complete understanding than the attack and defense of the shrine of some tin god of literature?

While, therefore, it was strange that Captain Coke should actually propose a visit to the bridge at an unusual time-at a time, too, when Hozier would be on duty-it struck her as far more curious that he should endeavor to prevent an earlier meeting.

"I shall be delighted to come at any time. I have often read about the Southern Cross, yet three short weeks ago I little thought"-

"You reely didn't think about it at all." broke in Coke. "If you 'ad you'd 'ave known you couldn't cross the line

without seein' it."

Here was another perplexing element in the skipper's conduct. That Iris was a stownway was forgotten. She was treated with the attention and ceremony due to the owner's niece. Coke never lost an opportunity of dinning into the ears of Watts or Hozier or the steward or any members of the crew who were listening that Miss Yorke's presence in their midst was a preordained circumstance, a thing fully discussed and agreed on as between her uncle and himself, but carried out in an irregular manner owing to some girlish freak on her part. The portmanteau, with its change of raiment, brought convincing testimony, and fris' own words when discovered in the lazarette supplied further proof, if that were needed.

A keen, invigorating breeze swent the last mirage of sleep from the girl's brain as she flitted silently along the deck. A wondrous gaiaxy of stars blazed in the heavens. In that pellucid air the sky was a vivid utramarine. The ship's track was marked by a trail of phosphorescent tire. Each revolution of the propeller drew from the ecean treasure house opnient globes of golden light that danced and sparkled in the fumbling waters. It was a night that pulsated with the romance and abautes of the south, a night when the heart suight throb with anutterable lengings and the blood tingle | her own ears,



in the veins under the stress of an emotion at once passionate and mystic.

Iris, spurred on hy no stronger impulse than that of the sightseer, though not wholly santware on an element of adventurous shyness in her expecta tion of a telesatete with a good look ing young man of her own status climbed to the bridge so speedly and noiselessly that Hozler did nor know of her presence until he heard her disminyed cry:

"Is that the Southern Cross?" He turned quickly

"You. Miss Yorke?" he exclaimed and not even her wonder at the insignificance of the stellar display of



"YOU. MISS YOUKE?" HE EXCLAIMED which she had beard so much could

closk the fact that Hozier was unprepared for her appearance. "Of course it is i. Who else?" she

asked. "Did not Captain Coke tell you to expect me?"

That is what he ar A man came and rapped at

"Partion me one moment." He teamed over the bridge and hailed the watch. The same hourse voice that had roused iris answered his questions, and in the faint light that came from the binmacie she caught a flicker of amusement on his face.

"Our excellent skipper's intentions have been defeated," he said. "He told one of the men to call him at seven bells, but not to wake you until the cross was visible. His orders have been obeyed quite literally. He will be summoned in another bour, and you have been dragged from bed to gaze at the false cross, which every foremast band persists in regarding as the real article. The true cross, of I beard his very words, and there is which Alpha Crucis is the southern pole star, comes up over the horizon an hour after the faise one."

"But Captain Coke said he would see you and warn you of my visit." "I can only assure you that he did

not. Perhaps he thought it unnecessary, meaning to be on deck himself." "Must I wait here a whole hour

Hozler laughed. It was amusing to find how Coke's marked effort to keep the girl and him apart had been defeated by a saller's blunder.

"I hope the waiting will not weary you," be said. "It is a beautiful night." "I am glad of the accident that brought me on deck somewhat earlier than was necessary," she said. "You and I have not said much to each other since you routed me out of the

lazarette, Mr. Hozier." "Our friends at table are somewhatdifficult. If only you knew how I re-

"Oh, what of that? When I became a stowaway I fully expected to be treated as one. I suppose, though, that you have often asked yourself why I was guilty of such a mad trick."

"Not exactly mad, Miss Yorke, but needless, since Captain Coke partly experted to have your company,"

"That is missard. He had not the

remotest hollon"-"Forgive no, but there you are wrong. He says that your uncle and he discussed the matter on the Sunday before we left Liverpool. His theory is rather borne out by the present state of the ship's larder. I assure you that few tramp steamers spread a table the the Andromeda's mess dur-

ing this coverre Iris laughed with a spontaneous mer-

"Being the own er's niece, I am well atered for?" she cried. "Something of the sort. It is only

"But I think I have rend in the ewspapers that when some unhappy reature is condy mned to death by the aw he is supplied with luxuries that would certainly be denied to any ordinary criminal?"

"Such doubtful elemency can hardly ipply to you, M'ss Yorke.

"It might apply to the ship or to that human part of ber that thinks and remembers and is capable of-of giving evidence."

She paused, fearing lest, perhaps, she might have spoken too plainly. Coke's counter stroke in alluding to aer dread of the proposed marriage was hidden from her ken. Hozier, of course, was thinking of nothing else. For the moment, then, they were at cross purposes.

"Things are not so bad as that," he said gently. "I hope I am not trespassing on forbidden ground, but it is only fair to tell you that the skipper was quite explicit up to a point. He said you were being forced into some matrimonial arrangement that was distasteful"-

"And, to escape from an undesirable suitor, J ran away?"

Well, the story sounded all right." "Hid myself on my uncle's ship when wished to avoid marrying the man

of his choice?" Hozier was not neglecting his work. but he did then take his eyes off the starlit sea for a few amazed seconds. There was no mistaking the scornful ring in the girl's words. He could see the deep color that flooded her cheeks. The glance that met his sparkled with an intensity of feeling that thrilled while it perplexed.

"Please pardon me if the question hurts, but if that is not your motive and there never was any real notion of your coming on this trip why are

you here?" he said. "Because I am a foolish girl, I suppose-because I thought that my presence might interpose a serious obstacle between a criminal and the crime he had planned to commit. If one wants to avoid bateful people a change of climate is a most effectual means, and I had not the money for ordinary travel. Believe me, Mr. Hozier, I am not on board the Andromeds without good reason. I have often wished to have a talk with you. I think you are a man who would not betray a confidence. If you agree to help me, something may yet be done. At first I was sure that Captain Coke would abandon his wicked project as soon as he discovered that I knew what was in his mind. But now I am beginning to doubt. Each day brings us nearer South America, and-

She was breathless with excitement. She drew nearer to the silent and impassive man at her side, dropping ber voice almost to a whisper. She caught his arm with an appealing hand.

"I am afraid that my presence will offer no hindrauce to his scheme," she murmured. "I am terrified to say such a thing, but I am certain, quite certain, that the ship will be lost within the next few days."

Hozier, though incredulous, could not but realize that the girl was saying that which she honestly thought to be

"Lost! Do you mean that she will be purposely thrown away?" he asked, and his own voice was not wholly under control, for he was called on to repress a sudden temptation to kiss away the tears that glistened in her brown eyes.

"Yes, that is what he said-on the rocks this side of Montevideo."

"He said-who?" "The-the captain."

"To whom did he say it?" "Oh, Mr. Hozier, do not ask that, but believe me and help me."

"How?" "I do not know. I am half distracted with thinking. What can we do? Captain Coke simply swept aside my first attempt to speak plainly to him. But-make no mistake-he knows that something in his manner, a curious sort of quiet confidence, that frightens

After that neither spoke during many minutes.

"That is a very serious thing you have told me, Miss Yorke," muttered

Hozier at last, not without a backward glance at the sailor in the wheelhouse to assure himself that the man could not by any chance overhear their conversation.

"But it is true -dreadfully true," said Iris, clasping her hands together and resting them on the high railing of

the bridge. "It is all the "BUT IT IS TRUEmore serious, DREADFULLY TRUE." SAID IRIS. inasmuch as

we are helpless," he went on. "Don't you see how impossible it is even to hint at it in any discussion with the man principally concerned? I want to say this, though--you are in no dan-There is no ship so safe as one that is picked out for willful destruction. Men will not sacrifice their own lives even to make good an insurance policy, and I suppose that is what is intended. So you can sleep sound of nights-at any rate until we near the coast of Brazil. I can only promise you if any watchfulness on my part riment that was rather astonishing in can stop this piece of villainy- Hello, there! What's up? Why is the ship

falling away from her course?"

The sudden change in his voice startled the girl so greatly that she uttered a slight shrick. It took her an appreciable time to understand that he was speaking to the man at the wheel, But the sailor knew what he meant.

"Something's gone wrong with the wheel, sir," he bawled. "I wasn't certain at first, so I tried to put her over a bit to s'uth'ard. Then she jammed for sure."

Hozier leaped to the telegraph and signaled "slow" to the engine room. Already the golden pathway behind the Andromeda had changed from a wavering yet generally straight line to well defined curve. There was a tiss and snort of escaping steam as the sailor inside the charthouse endeavored to force the machinery into action.

"Stendy, there!" bellowed Hozier Wait until we have examined the gear boxes! There may be a kink in a chain!"

A loud order brought the watch scurrying along the deck. Some of the men ran to examine the bearings of the huge fan shaped easting that governed the movements of the rudder, while others began to tap the wooden shields which protected the steering rods and chains. In the midst of the hammering and excitement Captal: Coke swung himself up to the bridge.

"Well, I'm blowed! You bere?" he said, looking at Iris. "Wot is it now?" he asked, turning sharply to Hozier. "Wheel stuck again?"

"Yes, sir. Has it happened before?" "Well-er-not this trip. But it as appened. Just for a minuit I was mixin' it up with the night you nearly run down that bloomin' hooker off the Irish coast. Ah, there she goes! Everything O. K. now. Wen daylight comes we'll overhaul the fixin's. Nice thing if the wheel jummed just as we was crossin' the Recife."

Hozler tried to ascertain from the watch if they had found the cause of the disturbance, but the men could only guess that a chance blow with an adz had straightened a kink in one of the casings. Coke treated the incident with nonchalance.

"Thought you was to be called w'en the cross hove in sight, Miss Yorke?

he said abruptly. "I am sorry to have to inform you that some people on board cannot distinguish between faisity and truth." she answered. "But please don't be angry with any of the men on my account. Mr. Hozier tells me they often confuse the false cross with the real one, and the mistake has been enjoy-

"A reg'lar 'umbug, the Southern Cross," grunted Coke. "It ain't a patch on the bear."

Coke grinned at his own pleasantry. To one of his hearers at least it seemed to be passing strange that he was so ready to forget such a vital defect in the steering gear as had manifested its existence a few minutes earlier.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

(Paid Advertising.)

ABUSING THE INITIATIVE.

Initiative for Matters of General Interest.

"The initiative privilege is a valuable right and the people of Oregon are fortunate in the possession of the same . It is a right though that should be used with discretion. If the initiative is invoked indiscriminately it will be of injury rather than of benefit," says the Pendleton East Oregonian in its issue of July 19.

"By the nature of things the initiative should be used for the settlement of questions that are of general state interest and questions upon which the people at large are capable of judging. It was proper that the direct primary law be enacted under the initlative. The law could not have been enacted in any other way. Legislatures elected under the old convention system would never have passed the direct primary law. It was proper that the corrupt practices act be enacted under the initiative and referendum. That law pertains to political morality and the people were able to judge of the merits of the law. It is all right to settle the normal school problem under the initiative. The legislature has utterly failed to handle the question.

"But the most glaring abuse of the initiative is on the part of those who have proposed county division measures. Eight bills have been filed asking for the creation of new counties or for the changing of boundary lines. In each case the question involved is of a purely local nature; not of state interest. It will be impossible for the people of the state to judge of these measures with intelligence. All division disputes should have been held in abeyance pending the passage of a law calling for the settlement of such disputes by the people directly concerned. The county divisionists. however, have refused to wait. They have submitted their bills in hopes the people will vote blindly for them. They have abused the initiative privliege and they should be rebuked for doing so. Every county division bill should be voted down.

"Insist that the initiative he used only when it may be invoked with propriety."

County Division Increased Taxes 61 4 Per Cent.

(East Oregonian.) That county division means in

creased taxation for the secssionists is shown by the experience of E. A. Schiffler, the well known local tailor, who owns some property in the city of Hood River. To the East Oregonian Mr. Schiffler has exhibited his tax receipts and they show that during the first year of the existence of Hood River county Mr. Schiffler's taxes increased 61.4 per cent. His 1908 taxes which were paid in Wasco county, amounted to \$85.50. His 1909 taxes,

of \$52.50 during the first year of Hood River county's existence. "I have always said that it is fool ish to divide counties," declared Mr.

Hood River county and which he paid

on February 14, 1910, amounted to

\$138. Therefore the creation of the

new county cost Mr. Schiffler the sum

THE MARKETS.

Portland.

Wheat-Track prices: Club, \$2c; bluestem, 82c; red Russ'an, 80c. Barley-Feed and brewing, \$21. Oats-No. 1 White, \$28 per ton,

Hay-Timothy, Willamette Valley \$19@20 per ton; Eastern Oregon

Butter-Creamery, 36; ranch, 24c. Eggs-Ranch, candled, 37c. nominal; olds, nominal,

Wool-Eastern Oregon 13@17c lb.; Valley, 17@19c lb. Mohair-Choice, 32@33c.

Seattle.

red Russian, 80c.

Oats-\$28 per ton. Barley-\$21 per ton.

Butter-Washington creamery, 36c; unch, 22c

Shooting was In Self-Defense.

Umatilla-Sam Kee, the Chinaman, lace here on October 17 last, was given his liberty following the verdict handed down by the coroner's jury at Pendleton, which held that the snooting was done in self defense. The jurors came here from Pendleton, and atter taking all the testimony of the witnesses here, returned to Pendleton I and signed the verdict.

Office in Litch building, Room 107. Enterprise, Oregon. ********** the first levied after the creation of

Schiffler, "It only means additional expense and increased taxation."

\$20@22; alfalfa, \$15@16.

Hops-1910 crop, 10@121/2c; 1909

Wheat-Bluestem, 86c; Club, 82c;

Hay-Timothy, \$26 per ton; alfalfa, \$19 per ton.

Eggs-Selected local, 45c,

who shot and killed James W. Love-

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY OF WALLOWA COUNTY ----

THOS. M. DILL ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

*********** DANIEL BOYD

ATTGRNEY-AT-LAW

Practice in all State Courts and interior Department, Careful at-tention to all business.

****** SHEAHAN & COOLEY

LAWYERS - ENTERPRISE

Practice in State and Federal Courts and Interior Department.

W C. KETCHU DENTIST - ENTERPRISE

Office in Litch Building, Room 121. Home Independent Phone.

\$ C. T. HOCKETT, M I

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON Office in Litch building. Room 4 115. Home Ind. Phone in office and residence.

PRODUCTION OF THE PRODUCTION O

redesign on our bullet DR. C. A. AULT PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

> Office in Bank Building. Home phone both office and residence.

***** CHARLES THOMAS

LAWYER - ENTERPRISE, OFF Practice in State and Federa Courts and Int. Dept. Abstract Bldg., opposite court house.

When you get a

UNIVERSAL

You get the best range at a moderate cost. Same is true of heating stoves. The

Howard

for coal or wood-is the best in the market, and costs no more than inferior kinds

Largest stock of Ranges, Cooking, Heating Stoves S. D. KELTNER'S HARDWARE

ENTERPRISE, OREGON

Enterprise Livery

and Sales Stable

Baker & Smith, Proprietors

Fair treatment to everybody. Bus meets all trains-10 cts Commercial Trade a Specialty. First Class Rigs. Phone Orders Carefully Followed

Horses Bought and Sold

Feed For Sale Open Day and Night Pure Bred Black Percheron Stallion at this barn for service

This Is Your Chance

To get a 20, 40 or 80 acre tract on Alder Slope, the best Fruit, Berry and Vegetable land in the valley; improved or unimproved, with plenty of water. Terms to suit you. Priced from \$25.00 to \$125.00 per acre.

Alder Slope Land Company C. H. Jordan, Selling Agent La Grande Oregon